

LYRICS TELL A STORY

SOURCE B

FOUR DEAD IN OHIO by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young
Tin soldiers and Nixon's comin'
We're finally on our own.
This summer I hear the drummin'
Gotta get down to it.
Soldiers are gunning us down.
Should have been done long ago.
What if you knew her and
Found her dead on the ground
How can you run when you know
Na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na
Na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na
Gotta get down to it.
Soldiers are gunning us down.
Should have been done long ago.
What if you knew her and
Found her dead on the ground
How can you run when you know
Tin soldiers and Nixon's comin'.
We're finally on our own.
This summer I hear the drummin'.
Four dead in Ohio.
Four dead in Ohio.
Four dead in Ohio.
Four dead in Ohio.
Four dead in Ohio.
Four dead in Ohio.

On May 5th, students at Kent State University were shot by Ohio National Guard members as they protested the Vietnam War. During this time, many people disagreed with the government's involvement in Vietnam and its attempt to stop the spread of communism.



SOURCE D May 5th Kent state shootinas

SOURCE C: " These National Guardsmen poured out of the heating plant, surrounded the protesters, and with a bullhorn announced that Martial Law had been declared and that we were all going to jail. Everybody starts chanting and screaming and they start shooting tear gas and some of the more ballsy protesters, while they're coughing and choking and puking are trying to throw it back, but most of the kids were anywhere from 50 to 100 yards away from these lines of National Guardsmen with guns. Nobody believed that the guns were loaded with live ammo. They just suddenly formed a row. The first one knelt and the second one stood, and they just shot right into the crowd, shot at all of us, down the hill at all of us. The worst thing about it is that 2 of the 4 students killed weren't part of the demonstration, weren't part of an antiwar group. They'd just come out of class from the journalism building at that time and come out on their way to their next class and were looking at the protest, just seeing what the hell's going on, and they got killed. The bullets went everywhere, it was like a scatter-gun approach, like shooting geese. A lot of the bullets went over the heads of the protesters and kept going straight down the hill. One of the kids that's paralyzed for life was getting into his car to leave campus after his class, and they shot him in the back. He was at least 200 yards away and wanted nothing to do with what was going on. It was shocking. It pretty much knocked any hippie that I had left in me right out of me that day". Jerry Casale may '70

Read the lyrics to For what its worth. (source A)

1. Who do you think the man with the gun represents? Explain why?
2. Who is protesting in the streets? Explain why they are protesting.
3. Explain what mood or tone does this song sets?
4. In your opinion, what do you think is going on?
5. Why are people protesting in the streets?
6. In your opinion, is this song optimistic or pessimistic? Why?

1. Read **source c**. Summarize Jerry Casale's account of the Kent State shootings.
2. What type of source is this?
3. In your opinion, is this source reliable or not? Why or why not?
4. Has this source been affected by time span? Why or why not?
5. In your opinion, could this source be biased? Why or why not?
6. Look at **source D**. Describe what is happening in this picture.
7. What type of primary source is Source D?
8. What impact do you think this picture had when it appeared in the newspaper?
9. After listening to the song, read the lyrics to 4 Dead in Ohio again (**source B**)
10. Who is mentioned in the song? Why was he important ?
11. Why are students being "gunned down"?
12. What is the connection between the photo and the lyrics (lines 7-9)
13. In your opinion, is this a pro war or anti war song? Explain.
14. In source E, what happened to the author? Explain why he might relate to the song. What message does the term massacre send?

Source E. On May 4, 1970, I was waving a black protest flag as a symbol of my anger and despair 10 days after I attended the funeral of my 19 year old friend killed in Vietnam. I was about 250 feet away from the kneeling, aiming guardsmen from Troop G--the death squad-- minutes before they marched away up a hillside. They fired 67 shots from the hilltop during 13 seconds of deadly gunfire, mostly from powerful M1 rifles. I was shot through my right wrist. I survived because I jumped behind the only tree in the driect line of gunfire. About a week later, I was riding in the Ohio countryside with other Kent State **massacre** survivors when WMMS radio played the song "Ohio" for the first time. We were deeply moved and inspired by that areat anti-war anthem." Alan Canfora